

Whole Brain Teaching: Mirror

Teaching Strategies Series

Teaching Strategies segments are brief 1-3 minute videos that feature examples of effective classroom practices from teachers around the country.

About this Segment

In this segment, fourth grade teacher Sharlene Kreager at Central Elementary in Artesia, New Mexico, and kindergarten teacher Carol Stafford at Altruria Elementary in Shelby County, Tennessee engage students in direct instruction and review using “mirror,” a Whole Brain Teaching method. The mirror strategy requires students to imitate the teacher’s actions and/or words. As they do so, students engage their motor memory, and are better able to engage and retain important information.

Suggested PD Activities

Educators may use the Teaching Strategies video segments and accompanying materials as professional development on an individual basis or as part of a learning group.

Discussion: After watching the video, use the following prompt to facilitate discussion.

1. How do you engage students when giving directions or introducing new material? How do you ensure that the new material “sticks?”

Reflection: After the discussion, participants are encouraged to record new learning and ideas. The following questions can be used to encourage reflection.



(Reflection questions can also be found online with the resources for this video.)

1. What are the benefits of having students imitate words and gestures when explaining important concepts?
2. How can you implement mirror in your classroom activities?
3. What adaptations would you make in implementing mirror as featured in this video?

Scholarly publications available on this topic:

Bruer, John T. “In Search of... Brain-Based Education.” *The Jossey-Bass Reader on the Brain and Learning*. p. 51 (1999).

Online resources available on this topic:

Whole Brain Teaching Home Page <http://www.wholebrainteaching.com>

Whole Brain Teaching: Mirror (Grade 1), by Freundlich Teaching <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot1uQ0Hy33E>

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